

~~SECRET~~NIO/CT
INCOMING

/34/

PRIORITY

FRP: ,2,3, , , , ,

STATE

25X1

PP RUEAIIB
 ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU5618
 PP RUEHC RUEHDD
 DE RUEHBS #2036/01 0381716
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH
 P 071712Z FEB 85
 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9858
 INFO RUEHDD/NATO COLLECTIVE
 RUDKEBQ/AMEMBASSY BERN 2853
 RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 5141
 RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0593
 RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0394
 RUFHEPC/EUROPEAN POLADS COLLECTIVE
 RUFHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 6395
 BT
 S E C R E T BRUSSELS 02036

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PTER, NATO, PREL, ASEC, BE
 SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING ALLIED COOPERATION AGAINST
 - THE TERRORIST THREAT TO NATO

REF: STATE 25620

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: BELGIUM, THE SITE OF 12 TERRORIST BOMBINGS SINCE AUGUST 1984, HAS BECOME PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE TERRORIST THREAT TO NATO, WHOSE HEADQUARTERS IT HOSTS. THE BOMBING CAMPAIGN BY THE CCC (COMMUNIST COMBAT CELLS) CAUGHT THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS UNPREPARED SECURITY FORCES BY SURPRISE, BUT THE BELGIANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US AND OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT TERRORISM. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, PREDICT HOW SOON THIS COOPERATION IS LIKELY TO BEAR FRUIT. END SUMMARY.

3. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CCC ATTACKS IN AUGUST THE EMBASSY HAS STEPPED UP ITS CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE TERRORIST THREAT WITH THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES AT ALL LEVELS. THIS ISSUE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS RAISED ON JANUARY 30 BY AMBASSADOR SWAEBE DIRECTLY WITH VICE PREMIER (AND MINISTER JUSTICE) GOL AND, AFTER THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, AGAIN BY THE POL COUNSELOR WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS. CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS ARE FREQUENT AND GOOD, NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE CCC BUT TO EXTRA-REGIONAL THREATS AS WELL. THE BELGIANS, PREOCCUPIED WITH WHERE AND WHEN THE NEXT BOMB WILL DROP, ARE DEFINITELY RECEPTIVE TO EXPANDED COOPERATION. THEY HAVE ALREADY, FOR EXAMPLE, AGREED

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TO SEND A TEAM TO THE U.S. FOR TWO WEEKS TO TAKE PART
IN A DEPARTMENT COUNTER TERRORISM SEMINAR SPONSORED
BY MCT/P.

4. WE ARE WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE LOW LEVEL OF
~~ANTI-TERRORIST CAPABILITY ON THE PART OF THE BELGIAN~~
~~AUTHORITIES. THE CCC ONSLAUGHT CAUGHT THEM FULLY~~
~~UNPREPARED AND THE RESOURCES THEY HAVE DEVOTED TO THE~~
~~RISING THREAT ARE SIMPLY INADEQUATE TO DO THE JOB.~~
~~FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNDERFUNDED AND UNDERSTAFFED BELGIAN~~
~~SURETE (300 MEN TO COVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY) DOES NOT~~
~~EVEN HAVE A COMPUTER FOR ITS INTELLIGENCE COLLECTING~~
~~EFFORTS.~~ THE GOVERNMENT, PENNED IN BY A STRICTLY
FOLLOWED AUSTERITY BUDGET, REALIZES THE EXTENT OF THE
THREAT, BUT APART FROM A GOOD DEAL OF SINCERE
HAND-WRINGING AND THE BELATED CREATION OF AN
INTERAGENCY COUNTER-TERRORISM TASK FORCE, THERE IS
LITTLE EVIDENCE OF AN ENHANCED BELGIAN CAPACITY TO
MEET THE THREAT. A SMALL BUT POSITIVE STEP WAS TAKEN
IN NOVEMBER 1984 WHEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
APPROVED AN INCREASE OF FUNDING DESTINED TO IMPROVE
BELGIUM'S ANTI-TERRORIST CAPABILITIES. FUNDS WERE
AUGMENTED BY 250 MILLION BF (ROUGHLY 4 MILLION
DOLLARS) WITH 150 MILLION BF FOR PEOPLE, EQUIPMENT,
AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

incredible

5. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY, MISSIONS, AND CONSULATE
GENERAL HAVE REVIEWED AND IMPLEMENTED THEIR OWN
SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS. MOST RECENTLY, BODYGUARDS
HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR PENDING
A BELGIAN DECISION ON OUR REQUEST THAT THEY PROVIDE
SUCH COVERAGE. OUR CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION WITH U.S. MILITARY AND OTHER U.S.
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AS WELL AS PRIVATE
ORGANIZATIONS, CONTINUE. HOWEVER, WE FULLY EXPECT
FURTHER ATTACKS BEFORE THE BELGIANS ARE ABLE TO GET A
STICK IN THE SPOKES OF THE CCC, AND WE ARE PREPARING
TO MEET THE THREAT.

6. AS CONCERNS REQUESTS FOR INTELLIGENCE ON
TERRORIST GROUPS (PARA 8 OF REPTTEL), WE FULLY
APPRECIATE THE NECESSITY FOR TIMELY REPORTING, WHICH
WE WILL PROVIDE AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE TO US.

7. IN OUR OPINION, A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO
PRIME MINISTER MARTENS (PARA 9 OF REPTTEL), WOULD BE

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SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT. THE CCC HAS MADE THE POINT FOR
US. THE BELGIANS UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE
THREAT AND ARE ALREADY WILLING TO COOPERATE. SWAEBE
END OF MESSAGE

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